

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please rewrite claims 12 and 19-22 as set forth below in clean form. Additionally, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(c)(1)(ii), amended claims 12 and 19-22 are set forth in a marked-up version in the pages attached to this amendment.

12. A device for actuating a brake system to accomplish a brake assist function, comprising:

a control unit for reducing at least one of a damping effect and a counterforce on a brake pedal when the brake assist function is activated to assist in a vehicle braking operation,

a sensor for sensing brake pedal actuation, and

wherein the sensed brake pedal actuation is used by the control unit to determine the vehicle deceleration that is to be effected by the brake system.

16. A device for actuating a brake system to accomplish a brake assist function, comprising:

a control unit for changing a brake force acting in the system as a function of at least one of an actuating travel of a brake pedal as sensed by a brake pedal sensor, an actuating speed of the brake pedal and an acceleration of actuation of the brake pedal when the brake assist function is activated to assist in a vehicle braking operation, and wherein the brake force acting in the system corresponds to a ratio between at least one of the determined actuating travel, the actuation speed and the acceleration of actuation of the brake pedal, and a vehicle deceleration to be effected by the brake system.

19. A device for actuating a vehicle brake system to accomplish a brake assist function, comprising:

a control unit for reducing at least one of a damping effect and a counterforce on a brake pedal when the brake assist function is activated to assist in a vehicle braking operation,

a sensor for detecting brake pedal actuation, wherein the control unit is coupled to the sensor for determining the vehicle deceleration to be effected by the brake system, and wherein the control unit changes a brake force acting in the brake system depending on at least one of an actuating travel, an actuating speed and an acceleration of actuation of the brake pedal when the brake assist function is activated, the brake force acting in the system corresponding to a ratio between at least one of the actuating travel, the actuating speed and the acceleration of actuation of the brake pedal, and the deceleration to be effected by the brake system.

20. A method for actuating a vehicle brake system to accomplish a brake assist function, comprising the steps of:

reducing at least one of a damping effect and a counterforce on a brake pedal when the brake assist function is activated to assist in a vehicle braking operation, and

determining the vehicle deceleration which is to be effected by the brake system as a function of brake pedal actuation.

21. A method for actuating a vehicle brake system to accomplish a brake assist function, comprising the steps of:

changing a brake force acting in the system as a function of at least one of :

- i. an actuating travel of a brake pedal,
- ii. an actuating speed of the brake pedal and,
- iii. an acceleration of actuation of the brake pedal when the brake assist

function is activated to assist in a vehicle braking operation, and

wherein the brake force acting in the system corresponds to a ratio between at least one of the actuating travel, the actuating speed and the acceleration of actuation of the brake pedal, and a vehicle deceleration to be effected by the brake system.

22. A method for actuating a vehicle brake system to accomplish a brake assist function, comprising the steps of:

reducing at least one of a damping effect and a counterforce on a brake pedal when the brake assist function is activated to assist in a vehicle braking operation,